CLAIMS

We claim:

1) A method for treating a mammal suffering from choroidal neovascularization, comprising administering to said patient an amount of a photoactive compound sufficient to permit an effective amount to localize in the affected target ocular tissue, then irradiating said tissue with light emitted from a laser at a wavelength sufficient to permit absorption by said photoactive compound; wherein said patient is also administered an amount of an antiangiogenic compound sufficient to inhibit recurrence of neovascularization following said irradiation.

2) The method of claim 1 wherein the antiangiogenic compound is selected from the group consisting of tyrosine kinase inhibitors and PEDF.

3) The method of claim 1 wherein said antiangiogenic compound is administered at a time sufficient to permit localization within ocular tissue prior to said irradiation.

4) The method of claim 1 wherein said antiangiogenic compound is administered intravenously.

5) The method of claim 1 wherein said antiangiogenic compound is administered through intraocular injection.

6) The method of claim 5 wherein said antiangiogenic compound is administered by subretinal injection.

7) The method of claim 5 wherein said antiangiogenic compound is administered by intravitreal injection.

8) The method of claim 2 wherein the antiangiogenic compound is PEDF.

9) The method of claim 8 wherein said antiangiogenic compound comprises a recombinant human PEDF.

10) The method of claim 2 wherein said PEDF comprises a continuous amino acid sequence corresponding to positions 44-121 of native human PEDF.

11) The method of claim 10 wherein said PEDF comprises a continuous amino acid sequence corresponding to positions 44-229 of native human PEDF.

12) The method of claim 11 wherein said PEDF comprises a continuous amino acid sequence corresponding to positions 44-267 of native human PEDF.

13) The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein said antiangiogenic compound is administered in the form of a composition comprising a nucleic acid which comprises an open reading frame encoding said agent and wherein said agent is expressed in ocular tissue.

14) The method of claim 13 wherein said composition comprises a viral coat encapsulating said nucleic acid.

15) The composition of claim 13 wherein said composition comprises a liposomal formulation.

16) A method of protecting ocular neural tissue from damage caused by photodynamic therapy (PDT) comprising delivering to a patient's ocular neural tissue an amount of a neuroprotectant compound effective to protect a plurality of ocular neurons from cell death as compared to ocular neuron cell death observed in the absence of the administration of said neuroprotectant.

17) The method of claim 16 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is selected from the group consisting of NGF, PEDF, CNTF, BDNF, brimonidine and memantine.

18) The method of claim 16 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered at a time sufficiently before said PDT treatment to

permit localization within ocular tissue prior to said treatment.

19) The method of claim 16 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered intravenously.

20) The method of claim 16 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered through intraocular injection.

21) The method of claim 14 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered by subretinal injection.

22) The method of claim 14 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered by intravitreal injection.

23) The method of any one of claim 17 wherein said neuroprotectant compound comprises a recombinant human polypeptide.

24) The method of claim 23 wherein said neuroprotectant compound comprises a continuous amino acid sequence corresponding to positions 44-121 of native human PEDF.

25) The method of claim 24 wherein said PEDF comprises a continuous amino acid sequence

corresponding to positions 44-229 of native human PEDF.

26) The method of claim 25 wherein said PEDF comprises a continuous amino acid sequence corresponding to positions 44-267 of native human PEDF.

27) The method of any one of claims 23 or 24 wherein said neuroprotective agent is a polypeptide and is administered in the form of a composition comprising a nucleic acid which comprises an open reading frame encoding said agent and wherein said agent is expressed in ocular tissue.

28) The method of claim 27 wherein said composition comprises a viral coat encapsulating said nucleic acid.

29) The method of claim 27 wherein said composition comprises a liposomal formulation.

30) The method of claim 16 wherein said composition also comprises an therapeutically effective amount of a antiangiogenic compound.

31) The method of claim 30 wherein said neuroprotective compound and said antiangiogenic compound are the same compound.

32) The method of claim 31 wherein said compound is PEDF.

33) The method of claim 1 wherein said composition also comprises an therapeutically effective amount of a neuroprotective compound.

34) The method of claim 33 wherein said neuroprotective compound and said antiangiogenic compound are the same compound.

35) The method of claim 34 wherein said compound is PEDF.

36) The method of claim 34 wherein said neuroprotective compound is selected from the group consisting of brimonidine and memantine.

37) The method of claim 36 wherein said neuroprotective compound is brimonidine.

38) The method of claim 36 wherein said neuroprotective compound is memantine.